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THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

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MAY, 1885.

No. 5.

C. A. CUTLER, Editor.

Communications for the JOURNAL, exchanges, and editors' copies, should be addressed C. A. CUTLER, Boston Athenaeum, Boston, Mass.

Subscribers are entitled to advertise books wanted, or duplicates for sale or exchange, at the nominal rate of 5 cents per line (regular rate 15 cents); also to advertise for situations or assistance to the extent of 5 lines free of charge.

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In the March number of the *Centralblatt für Bibliothekswesen* is a long communication from a library assistant on the question of pay, which contains some interesting details in regard to the condition of such employes in Germany. Their social status he does not complain of; it is that of teachers. Their time of service is easy, only five hours a day, whereas teachers in the gymnasias have four hours' teaching and two hours' preparation per diem. On the other hand, the *Gymnasial-lehrer* has twelve weeks' vacation and the *Bibliotheksbearbeiter* only four. It is the condition of keepers of the archives, however, that provokes the jealousy of the writer. They have higher salaries than library assistants, though the knowledge necessary to the proper performance of their duties is much more limited, and they can supplement their pay by working after hours (five hours a day leaves plenty of time for extra work) for private persons in making extracts from manuscripts, drawing up pedigrees, and the like, which the librarians cannot do, because there is no demand for their work. Moreover, the archivists may be transferred from one archive to a better paid one in another city; the whole Prussian state is their field; whereas the library employes are as a rule promoted only within the limits of their own library; if the superior librarians are young men the poor assistants have no chance.

The pay of the chief librarians is declared to be satisfactory. It begins with \$1250, and rises to \$1500. The assistant librarians, the writer thinks, ought to begin at \$450, and rise to \$1000, or even to \$1125. They have now much less. The unlucky persons employed temporarily for cataloging are the worst paid; they begin with

\$187 50 a year. It is not stated for how long they are expected to keep body and soul together on that pay, nor to what heights they finally rise; but we should not advise any discontented cataloger to emigrate to Germany in the hope of bettering his or her lot.

THE treasurer of the American Library Association has just received from the Columbia College Library the annual dues for ten new members. President Barnard joined last year, and three others are old members, so that the library now has fourteen on the A. L. A. roll, and several other members of the staff have expressed their intention of joining later in the season. This good result came from a simple statement by Mr. Dewey, at one of the semi-weekly staff meetings, of the objects of the A. L. A. and the terms and advantages of membership. If all our members would do this we should easily double our numbers before the meeting.

American Library Association.

THE A. L. A. MEETING.

JUST as the JOURNAL goes to press, the cable brings word that no English party can come to a meeting next month. This decision, with the requests from numerous members for a later date, seems to make it desirable to hold the meeting at Lake George and Saratoga after the height of the summer season instead of before, as was intended. The members of the committee and Executive Board who could be reached in time for this issue, with one exception, agree in this, and the committee is arranging for headquarters and exact dates, probably late in September, to announce in the June JOURNAL.

Members who are to bring material for the object-lesson department will please keep it to bring in person or to be sent by express direct to the meeting, marked Secretary A. L. A. Further offers of brief papers and of topics for discussion should be sent at once; also the names and addresses of those who plan to attend, in order that where practicable reduced rail road fares may be obtained.

MELVIL DEWEY, Secretary.

THE COLLEGE LIBRARY.

Part of an Address before the College Association of Ohio, at Springfield, O., Dec. 30, 1884.

BY REV. T. K. DAVIS, D.D., LIBRARIAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WOOSTER.

... The popular notion has been, and is still, to some extent, that the object of a college course is to give a complete education to the student. And by that is meant to train his faculties, which it is expected will be done by the teachers, and by means of a prescribed course of study; so text-books are provided. Whatever is contained in an approved text-book is popularly supposed to be infallibly true and reliable. The student is expected to commit certain portions of the text-book, or the whole of it, to memory. The teacher's function is to see that he does it. There is not only no time for much reading, but reading is supposed to hinder attention to the proper work of the student. Not long ago I was commending the interests of our library to an intelligent gentleman of wealth, who remarked that he did not think that many books were needed in a college library; that young people were not sent to college to spend their time in reading, and ought not to read much, if any, before the senior year. They were there, in his opinion, for the purpose of mental discipline, and that by an uninterrupted attention to the prescribed course of study. Persons who take this view think that a library is well enough in its place. It looks well. It sounds well to say that the college has a library of so many thousand volumes. Both professors and students may find it convenient or agreeable occasionally to read a volume or to consult one. But still the great work of the college is to go on, distinct from and independent of the library. The librarian's work, if there be one, is to take care of the books and see that none of them are lost—I was almost going to say to see that none of them are handled. His function is that of a watchdog. This idea is a survival of mediæval times, when books were so rare and costly that, naturally enough, the chief object in library administration was the preservation of the books. A good illustration of the old way of regarding the college library was given by the accomplished librarian of Harvard, in a paper which he read in 1879 before the American Social Science Association, at Saratoga. "Time was," he said, "when the student in college came up to the library once or twice a week on sufferance." "Boys!" cried the warder of one of the first of our college libraries, within the memory of the

present generation—"boys, what are you doing here? This is no place for you."

A wholly different view is now taken by intelligent educators. Whereas college work used to consist in the memorizing of text-books, *subjects* are now studied. The effort now is to make the student acquainted with things as they are, rather than with what this or that text-book oracularly decides to be the final truth. Enlightened teachers encourage their pupils to look at subjects from different points of view, and to examine the processes by which writers have reached conclusions, and to make inquiries for themselves. This improved method of teaching involves a use of books which was unknown, even in the best institutions, a few years ago. The true teacher of to-day is continually presenting the subject of study in his class-room, so as to make every hour spent there suggestive of collateral reading and independent examination. He thus both secures the best knowledge of the subject in hand, and develops in the student the habit and the love of self-culture by reading and research. To do this work the teacher ought not to be cramped and disheartened by any scantiness of material of the highest and freshest sort in the college library. How trying to him and how chilling to the student's ardor when but a single volume, or two or three at most, can be named as giving all the related reading on the subject that the library affords. For such work as accomplished professors are now doing, good college libraries are absolutely necessary.

And while the improved method of teaching calls for the use of many books, the press is teeming with publications on every imaginable subject, and books are now furnished and pressed upon us at wonderfully reduced cost, and generally of a character greatly superior in every respect to those which were within the reach of students in former times. There is no necessity, and, indeed, no excuse for the shelves of college libraries being filled with the refuse of old family collections, and for our Christian colleges setting before their students so many thousands of volumes, irrespective of their age and character. "Books that are books" are too numerous and too easily procured for our students now to be put off with old rubbish. When the finest of the wheat is abundant and cheap, is it not injustice

to earnest students to offer them chaff and straw? A good working library of lifesome and helpful books, four or five thousand in number, is of far greater worth than a library of fifty thousand volumes, full of the controversies and crude speculations of the past. The controversies may have been necessary and the speculations may have had their uses; but why need the student of to-day go through them all when he may find the grand results in the fresh and attractive volumes of living scholars?

This suggests the thought that the effort of college authorities to-day should be not merely to increase the number of volumes in the library (for there may often be delusion and disappointment when that is done), but to have the freshest and best books that can be procured, and also to secure an intelligent and vigorous administration of the library, so as to render it most efficient and useful; for vital and indispensable as a good working library is, it is no less important to have a competent librarian. While, therefore, I enter a plea for the college library as an educational appliance for every-day use of unspeakable value, I plead also for the office of librarian as one second to no other, in some respects, in interest and in opportunity—an office distinct and different from that of the class-room instructor, but one without whose supplemental work that of the learned and accomplished professor is incomplete.

A good librarian is a great lover of books, but not a book-worm; one who is in his element among books, and pamphlets, and periodicals; one who is not confused or overwhelmed by the increasing mass of them, but whose delight it is to explore the "hidden treasures" of knowledge, to reduce them to order and system, and to bring to the light of day and to the attention and use of professors and students the vast materials accumulating around him. He must have a large acquaintance with books, and be filled with zeal for the diffusion of knowledge. He should be acquainted with every book and pamphlet and periodical in his library, and be able to inform the inquiring student which one is antiquated and worthless, and which one, though old, is full of truth and "as good as new;" what one is sound in its reasoning and reliable, and what one fallacious, inconclusive, and of no account. He should be able to make the vast and varied materials around him available to professors and students, especially to the elect few who are hungering and thirsting for knowledge, for truth and wisdom, for moral and intellectual growth and power.

The librarian is, with the faculty, in some degree responsible for the healthy moral and intellectual growth of the students. The librarian who understands his mission is laboring in connection with the professors to introduce into the youthful mind of to-day a current of reading and thinking which will silently but powerfully help to shape the Christian civilization of the future. He is seeking to introduce the best literature that can be procured into the daily life of the institution, and thus to make the thoughts of the greatest and best men of all time a vital force in the lives of the youth who are presently to wield the sceptre of influence. In doing this he is helping to make the college a grand conservative as well as moving power; and like the eloquent teacher of the class-room, he has some claim, has he not, upon the interest and sympathy, the gratitude and honor of the church and of the world?

Now, if the librarian is one upon whom, for the sake of economy, the office is imposed in addition to the mighty and laborious work of professor, he has not time for this work; and how few assistant librarians—who are usually students and are expected to do the work of the nominal librarian—have either the time or the acquaintance with literature to perform the manifold and difficult duties of the position? As the result, how few of the great multitude of young men and women—that grand army of the Republic—who are annually graduated from our college halls can be said to be intelligent readers? How few have been fitted for that great life-work of us all—personal self-culture—by the means of books?

This brings me to a point which the thoughtful librarian of one of our colleges has requested me to present to you. Mr. Watson, of Oberlin, after speaking of the growth of the libraries there, and of the growing interest taken in library work by the college authorities, of the new library building in course of erection, and the various improvements which are contemplated, adds: "It has seemed to me that the college-library might be made much more useful than I suppose it commonly is, as an auxiliary to the recitations, and as an aid in other ways in promoting the culture of the student. Why should there not be prescribed courses of reading, recommended and superintended by the teachers? And why should not the studies of the course be arranged with reference to these courses of reading, so that they could be pursued by the students?"

"Reading thus provided for would be more general, more systematic, and more influential.

I feel confident that the college library might and ought to have a much larger proportional use in the course of study than it now has in most colleges. A considerable and increasing use is made of our libraries; but I know that by the co-operation of all the teachers on some pre-arranged plan they might have a much larger use."

Is not this an admirable suggestion? Courses of reading arranged by the professors and pursued under their supervision, the students to be examined from time to time as to their diligence and as to their mastery of what they have been reading—would not that be one way of reaching the great end aimed at now by the most earnest professors and librarians—that of teaching students *what* to read, and how to read most skilfully and profitably?

Is some one ready to say, "Our students, amid the multiplying branches of the curriculum at this day, have no time for systematic and continuous reading?" Let us see how that is. Mr. Matthews, in his essay on college libraries, in the centennial report of the National Bureau of Education, makes a calculation. He says: "Let us suppose that a young man on entering college economizes the odds and ends of his time so far as to read twelve pages of history a day. This would amount, omitting Sundays, to about thirty-seven hundred pages, or twelve volumes of over three hundred pages each in a year. At the end of his college course he would have read forty-eight volumes—enough to have made him master of all the leading facts, with much of the philosophy of history, with the great paramount works of English literature, with the masterpieces (in translations) of French, German, Spanish, and Italian literature, and with not a little of the choicest periodical-literature of the day. What a fund of knowledge, of wisdom, and of inspiration would these forty-eight volumes, well chosen, well understood, and well digested, be to him! What a quickening, bracing, and informing study would even one great book prove! The histories of Hallam, Grote, Merivale, Mommsen, Milman, Macaulay, Clarendon's gallery of portraits, Gibbon's great historical painting—any one of these might date an epoch in the student's intellectual life. The thorough, conscientious study of any masterpiece of literature, Dr. Johnson thought, would make a man a dangerous intellectual antagonist. Over and above all this, the student would have formed habits of self-improvement and of economy in the use of his time, which would be of more

value than his acquisitions and would influence his whole life."

In this State and throughout the West, it would seem that the idea of a college has been too generally limited to the procuring of fine buildings and a sufficient corps of able teachers. The library has been a secondary consideration. If anybody presents some books, or money for the purchase of books, it is well. If anybody gives the funds for erecting a library building, it is well. But that the library is a vital and indispensable factor in the educational apparatus and in the daily life and work of the college; that, it is just as much needed as the living teachers; that it must be provided for in some way; that, if the money necessary to secure it cannot be saved out of the generous contributions for building purposes, then a library endowment must be gathered simultaneously with the general endowment and a competent and live librarian placed in charge—this, you will admit, has not been the accepted doctrine.

Letters which I have received, while preparing this paper, from many of the colleges here represented, indicate that generally the interests of this branch of college work suffer from the concentration of attention and effort in the work of procuring buildings and teachers. The distinguished president of one college writes: "We have a library of about two thousand volumes, and besides, each of the four literary societies has a library of about three hundred volumes. We have as yet no convenient library building. All the libraries are used more or less by the students. No doubt more systematic arrangements would secure better results." And an accomplished professor in another college writes: "The work of library service is chiefly done by an assistant librarian, a student, who receives a small sum for that labor. The responsible librarian is a member of the faculty, who takes, without compensation, such measures as he may be able to forward the interests of the library. I am convinced that each library should be under the direct supervision of a well-trained and widely-read librarian, who would make it of much more value to students than many college libraries now are."

Where there is a regular librarian, and where the library is open all the hours of every school-day the year round, the economy rendered necessary by the lack of a library-fund leads to imperfect and unsatisfactory work. The librarian, in such a case, will perhaps have to depend upon supplementing his scanty income by ministerial

or other work, which requires, say one half of his time and energy, the whole of which would be all too little for a librarian's work. And then, for the want of needful assistance, that fraction of his time which is devoted to library service is necessarily given to the drudgery of handing out books. The all-important work of exploring all the departments of learning represented in the alcoves, of cataloguing, of indexing the multitudinous volumes of essays, travels, pamphlets, and such articles in the journals of the day as are important and worthy of preservation, of preparing reference lists and daily bulletins, etc. etc., must be omitted altogether or be imperfectly formed.

Even in our Eastern colleges, where they are—in the largest and wealthiest of them at least—far in advance of us in respect to the use of libraries, they still have in some cases the strangest ideas about the employment and compensation of a librarian. I visited one of those colleges not long ago on a national holiday; and while every professor and student was enjoying the rest and recreation of the day—so far as I could judge from the fact that not one was to be seen on the college premises—I found the librarian deep in his work. As a librarian, he has a national reputation. His writings have done much to bring about the change which is going on as to the use of books in our colleges, East and West. In the course of conversation he remarked that he could not make a living by his library work. "I am a professor," he said, "and am supported by the salary attached to my chair. I do not give either as much time or as much brain-work to my professional duties as I do to this library, yet for the former the salary is readily paid; for the latter it would not be possible to secure the same salary."

These, then, are the points I make:

1. The college library is a potent and valuable factor in college work.
2. It cannot be made the power it may and should be without a competent and well-read librarian, with sufficient assistance, giving all his time and all his energies to this one work.
3. The truth on this subject should be presented to the public by college authorities and leading educators, in such a practical and cogent manner that the generous benefactors of our institutions of learning will turn in this direction a portion of the funds which from time to time they so freely bestow for the erection of buildings and endowment of professorships.

STEPHEN B. NOYES:

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

BY J. B. NOYES.

STEPHEN BUTTRICK NOYES was born at Brookfield, Mass., August 28, 1833—was son of George R. Noyes, and Eliza Wheeler Buttrick Noyes. He was the lineal descendant of a learned minister of the Gospel whose sons—James, who had studied at Brazenose College, Oxford, and Nicholas—emigrated for religion's sake from Choldrington, County of Wilts, England, and took passage on the "Elisabeth and Dorcas," arriving in New England May, 1634. They settled in Newbury, Mass. James became the first minister in Newbury in 1635. Nicholas from whom Stephen was descended, cultivated a large farm, "of several hundred of acres of land." His wife was in 1653 "presented for wearing a silk hood and scarf," but was discharged on proof that her husband was worth over two hundred pounds.

His ancestor on his mother's side, William Buttrick, took passage for New England on the "Susan and Ellen," Edward Payson master, on the 12th of April, 1635, but did not sail until after May 9. He served the town of Concord, Mass., honorably as a sergeant, a post then of distinction. His great-grandfather was Major John Buttrick, who commanded the militiamen at the Concord fight. Stephen went to Cambridge in 1849, with his father, who had been appointed Professor of Hebrew and other Oriental Languages in the Divinity School of Harvard College. He was educated at the Hopkins Classical School. E. B. Whitman master, entered college in 1849; was graduated in the class of 1853. President Eliot and Justin Winsor were classmates. He was at the Boston Athenæum, under Mr. Abbot, in Aug., 1854, and appears to have left the library in July, 1855. He went to New York Oct. 10, 1855, to be a clerk with the firm of Noyes & Whittlesey, where he remained till the fall of 1857, when he returned to Cambridge. Feb. 20, 1858, he again went to Brooklyn, N. Y., having applied for the position of Librarian of the Mercantile Library Association of that city, which had just been organized. On March 1, 1858, he was appointed Librarian of the Mercantile Library of the City of Brooklyn. He arranged the books upon the shelves, and they were kept separately from the books of the Brooklyn Athenæum. The library was opened to the public at the Brooklyn Athenæum build-

ing in May, 1858, with 7,000 volumes on the shelves. The number of volumes in the library March, 1859, was 11,400, March, 1860, 14,260, March, 1865, 19,000. Oct. 3, 1865, he was offered a position in the Library of Congress by A. R. Spofford, which he accepted. His resignation of the Mercantile Library was accepted Oct. 10, 1865, and he left for Washington shortly after. June 15, 1868, he was officially informed that he had been unanimously elected Librarian of the Mercantile Library of the City of Brooklyn, and Aug. 31 he arrived in Brooklyn to take charge of the library. At that time the new building was nearly completed.

He married Sophia O. Anthony, daughter of Edward Anthony, of Brooklyn, Oct. 20, 1870, by whom he had two children—Annie Anthony, born Dec. 4, 1871, now living, and G. Holland, who died at the age of nine years. His first wife died while his children were still babies.

He married Susan Wilson Wylie, daughter of James Wylie, June 14, 1882, by whom he had a son, Sidney B. Noyes, born March 24, 1883.

He was sick during the fall of 1884 and sailed for Florida, Dec. 20, 1884, with his wife, where he died March 8, 1885. His remains were brought to Brooklyn and interred in Greenwood Cemetery, March 15, 1885.

He was a member of the Long Island Historical Society, and was elected corresponding member of the New England Historic-Genalogical Society, Oct. 6, 1858. He was also Historiographer of the New England Society of Brooklyn. His *magnum opus*, the Brooklyn Library catalogue, was published in 1881. At the time of his death the number of books in the Brooklyn Library was about 83,800.

"EVAPORATION."

REV. W. L. ROPES, Secretary of the Andover Theological Seminary, writes me of a decidedly interesting experience through which he is passing. I am not clear as to the reasons of this "evaporation" (no other word so well describes the appearance of the sample label sent), and beg that any reader who can give light on the subject will do so in an early journal. MELVIN DEWEY.

"From some cause the paper labels, bearing the numbers of the shelves, and sometimes the topics of the books, which are fastened on the edges of the shelves, generally with mucilage, sometimes only with small tacks, are gradually disappearing, not by any wear or abrasion, but, so to speak, by a kind of *evaporation*, as if the

particles composing the substance of the paper were one by one absorbed into the atmosphere, or annihilated. The substance of the paper grows thinner and thinner, changing from its opaque whiteness to the appearance of tissue paper, and after a while leaving only a whitish blur on the surface of the wood underneath, or perhaps entirely disappearing. I am describing now more particularly the number-labels, which are attached to the shelves by mucilage. But there is a similar process going on with certain bits of card fastened to the shelf edges with small tacks, and on which there was some word written, indicating the topic.

"But this 'evaporation,' or disintegration, is not confined to these shelf-labels. It is going on also with the bindings of the books, more particularly with the backs of the books. It is more noticeable, perhaps, where the backs are of paper, making the backs white or gray, which were originally black or dark-colored, and obliterating the lettering. But the effect is observable also in cloth-backed books, taking off entirely, in some instances, the paper back, and exposing the material underneath.

"I do not remember in any instance to have noticed anything like dust or debris from these surfaces lying under or near the book or paper. It does not seem to me like the work of minute insects. And it appears to be on those portions of the book which are most exposed to the light and the air, although not necessarily in the lightest or most sunny parts of the room. The back of the book is affected rather than the sides. There are certain localities in the room in which there is much more of this process than in other localities. In general I may say that toward the middle of the room there is very much less of it than along the walls. It is a long room, running about east and west. This disintegration is seen principally on the north and south sides. But its greatest devastations are in the two corners, on the north side of the room. A shelf from one of the inner divisions (nearest the middle of the room) was, 12 or 15 years since, taken out and placed with other shelves in a stairway in the north-west corner of the room. On taking this from the stairway recently, I found that the number-label on it had, to a great extent, disappeared, whereas there is perhaps not the slightest sign of such disintegration in the labels on its companion shelves which have remained all these years in their original position, near the middle of the room. The labels on these are nearly, if not quite, as good as new.

"Our library-room has, in the main, a dry atmosphere. There is only infrequently a slight show of dampness on books at the east end of the room. The evil of the room seems to be rather excessive dryness than moisture, as is shown by the cracking of the covers of the books, and their falling to pieces as they stand on the shelves. Still it must be allowed that when there is any moisture there is likely to be more of it along the walls and in the north-westerly and north-easterly corners.

"The walls are built with open spaces, I think, to guard against danger of dampness.

"If you can give me any light on the subject, I shall be very grateful; and especially if you can suggest any way to which the process I have referred to may be arrested or prevented. Perhaps nothing would avail but some precautions in the original construction of the building. Possibly a thorough ventilating of the whole room, every day in the year, might prevent the evil, or mitigate it.

"I have an impression that an atmosphere so dry as is that of our library in the winter may have something to do with it. This doubtless cracks off the covers of the books. I find it very difficult to believe that the evil is from insects.

"Is not a dark room, with the temperature not above 40° or 50°, and only moderately dry, the best condition for the preservation of books and paper?"

THE PAWTUCKET FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND THE DIME NOVEL.

From the Providence Journal.

THE reading-room is always a comfortable place, well warmed and lighted, and offers many attractions to the boys who have no pleasant surroundings at their homes. Consequently, especially in cold or stormy weather, boys would find their way there to enjoy its comforts whose taste was for such reading as is not allowed there. They were shrewd enough to know that the literature they brought would not be allowed, so they carefully concealed it in the large books on the table, the bound volumes of the illustrated papers, etc., and while really reading "The Cowboys of Arizona," or "Jesse James," or "Kingbolt Chris, the young hard shell detective," or, "Yellowstone Jack," they were, to the casual observer, reading something of a more elevating sort. How to deal with this problem judiciously was a question. It would not do to be harsh, and drive such boys away, for those were just the ones to whom the reading-room might be a benefit. The librarian and the trustees often talked to the boys found with such trash kindly and pleasantly, telling them of the dangers of reading the stuff, but this seemed to have little effect. The boys could not quite understand how or why the librarian or the trustees should have any particular interest in them, and besides the average American boy always arrives at an age when he is suspicious of every attempt to deprive him of any enjoyment in which he himself can see no harm, and seems to be impressed with the idea that all such efforts are merely the desire of grown people to prevent the boys from having any fun or doing anything in which he delights. So all the talk did little or no good.

Then Mr. W. R. Sayles, one of the trustees, bethought him of another plan which he might try. He procured a scrap-book, into which he posted clippings from newspapers at home and abroad, concerning the pernicious effect upon boys of reading such literature, and especially

items of police news, court trials, running away from home, etc., in which the dime novel was the inspiration to the unlawful deeds which brought the little fellows into the clutches of the police, or into danger and trouble. Now it happens that such incidents are of more frequent occurrence than is generally known, and it wasn't a great while before Mr. Sayles had a sufficient collection of such material in his scrap-book to try its effect upon the boys. So he began work. His mode was to visit the reading-room often and look over the young readers to see what they were reading. When he found one reading the sensational, disguised in the leaves of one of the books belonging to the reading-room, he took him in hand, kindly and pleasantly, telling him he had something for him to read that would interest him. He then produced his scrap-book and pointed out certain selections. The boy would read but a few moments before he began to get interested, and after reading that four boys in one place had got into trouble by trying to imitate dime novel heroes, and that two boys in another place had been punished by the court for attempting to do as dime-novel characters did, and all that sort of thing, and reading them not as arguments against his pet enjoyment, but as hard facts from the records and published simply as news, with the names of the boys and the places, etc.,—after reading such facts for twenty minutes or half an hour, he began to believe there was real danger in reading that kind of literature, and was willing to give up his dime novel and to be guided in the selection of his reading matter. This mode worked to a charm. Not a boy was afterward found there with his little volume of trash, but what was invited to read in this scrap-book, and not one read in this scrap-book that did not willingly surrender his sensational story, the convincing usually taking from twenty minutes to half an hour. This was one step. The next was to get him interested in reading of a better class, and this was comparatively easy after he had become convinced of the danger of reading what before he had so well liked. And experience has proved that the boys thus treated have not deserted the reading-room and gone somewhere else, where they can read what they like, but by far the greater number have become regular attendants there, and even more interested in reading what the institution furnishes free than they were before interested in what they could purchase for five or ten cents. Individual instances of more than ordinary interest might be mentioned, but such a course might not be judicious. A large number of stories of the dime novel order have been thus secured from boys of 15 years and under, and all voluntarily surrendered. A large portion of which has been destroyed, though samples have been kept. The librarian has done some of this work, though Mr. Sayles has made a business of it. It has now been a long time since reading matter of this sort has been found in possession of the boys in the reading-room, and it is believed the custom is thoroughly stopped.

THE LIBRARY OF THE MOSQUE OF ST. SOPHIA.

BY REV. ELIAS RIGGS, D.D., OF CONSTANTINOPLE.
[From the *Catholic World*.]

I HAD a few days ago the opportunity of making a somewhat interesting visit to the Library of the Mosque of St. Sophia. A gentleman in America had written me stating that a book had recently been published in America, though he did not mention its title, in which some very remarkable statements were made as to the contents of said library, and he desired, if possible, to verify them. Among the works alleged to exist in that library were a Greek manuscript of the Bible, being one of those prepared by Eusebius by order of the Emperor Constantine, the entire Jerusalem Talmud, the official records of the Jewish Sanhedrim in the time of Christ, etc.

The same gentleman subsequently wrote to General Wallace, United States Minister, who, for several reasons, was interested in the inquiry, and obtained permission to visit the library and to inspect it freely. He invited Dr. Washburn, Dr. Long, and myself to accompany him. Dr. Washburn was unable to go with us, but Dr. Long and I accompanied the minister, and the visit was made on February 21st. Three interpreters also assisted in the inspection of this interesting library—namely, the first interpreter of the Embassy, an interpreter from the Palace, and a member of the Censorship Board, sent by the Minister of Public Instruction.

The library occupies an apartment under one of the smaller domes which surround the great dome of the mosque, measuring, I should say, about sixteen by twenty feet. It is entered by a gilded door from the south side of the mosque, through a smaller apartment used as a reading-room by students in the college connected with the mosque, and by other Moslems, but not open to Christians or other non-Moslems. The books are kept in closets in the east and west walls of the room, and in a set of cases opening outward, arranged in the middle of the room so as to form an inner apartment, with shelves also within it.

Zia Bey, the librarian, received us courteously and gave us the opportunity of freely inspecting the library. We found it to consist of some six thousand volumes, nearly all being Arabic or Persian manuscripts. We found nothing looking like the uncial Greek manuscript referred to, or the Talmud, or any Jewish records or manuscripts of any kind or age. We looked over the catalogue of the library, and found no intimation of any such works. The librarian assured us that no such works exist in the library, nor anything whatever remaining from the time of the Turkish conquest.

His manner appeared entirely frank. We saw nothing indicative of a desire to conceal anything. On the contrary, he showed a readiness to hunt up and exhibit to us anything in which we felt an interest. He showed us three books containing portions of the Scriptures in Arabic and Latin, one of them being a New Testament printed in 1616, and declared that these were the only non-Mussulman books in the library.

He showed us several very curious Arabic manuscript volumes: one a large quarto on Natural History, illustrated by good drawings; another on Natural Philosophy and Mechanics, also with drawings; a very ancient commentary on the Koran, etc.

He stated, in answer to our inquiries, that he had been librarian of this library for about twenty-five years, and that in that time the only foreigners who had had access to it, previous to the time of our visit, were the French Empress Eugénie, the Emperor of Austria, and the Shah of Persia, and that, with the exception of said emperor and empress, no person not a Moslem has had access to this library in his time.

He mentioned that about twenty-five years ago the United States Secretary of Legation obtained permission to have a translation made of a work entitled "A description of the climate and productions of Mussulman countries;" and that more recently a Russian attaché, by permission of the Minister of Public Instruction, had a copy taken of a small work in Turkish on Bokhara, the work of translating or copying having in both instances been done away from the library.

It seems that the writer of the book referred to by my American correspondent gave, in his volume, what purported to be extracts from Hebrew documents of the time of Christ, copied by himself from originals in the Library of the Mosque of St. Sophia.

Communications.

HOW TO BECOME A LIBRARIAN.

I HAVE been for several years a clergyman; but as I am, by natural and acquired taste, by education, by a wide, extensive knowledge of books and multifarious reading in all departments of literature, better fitted for the care and oversight of books than anything else, I should be greatly obliged for any information which would aid me in obtaining a librarian's position, or any position among books where I could be useful (and in my natural element).

I am of the class of '78 of Harvard College (though not a graduate), and I made, while a student there, a perhaps too thorough use of my opportunities for reading, etc., in the fine library there collected. In short, from my childhood up I have been ever eager for knowledge concerning books, authors, etc., and I believe there are comparatively few persons, even in libraries, whose knowledge of books, titles, authors, publishers, subjects, etc. (in nearly all departments of literature), is greater than mine. This is not necessarily boasting, for I realize that unless I can gain some position where I can make such general knowledge useful, it were better indeed to be more of a "one book" man; but as such a position is my one great desire, since in it I should be happy (and useful also), will you not in kindness inform me what steps I need to take in order to attain it?

[The surest way to get an appointment as

librarian is to secure the favor of some library committee, board of directors, board of trustees, or other appointing authority. Next to that comes making yourself competent to hold such a position (your present acquirements being valuable, no doubt, but far from sufficient), and then to let it be known that you are competent. The best way to learn the art of librarianship is to take a subordinate post in some library not too small and to keep your eyes open, reading at the same time the more modern essays on library economy, to be found in the nine volumes of the *Library Journal*, in the report on the libraries of the U. S. published by the Bureau of Education in 1876, and in the reports of the meetings of the Library Association of the United Kingdom, contained in their monthly notes and in the *Library Chronicle*. When the school of library economy is established at Columbia College that will, we hope, be the best place to learn the art. — Ed.]

THE SUPPRESSION OF BOYS.

SOME of the profession who cannot readily unite the functions of librarian and policeman may care to hear of a simple device we have adopted, and which, as we have not yet applied for a patent, is at their service.

In our reading-room we have been more or less annoyed from time to time by a set of youngsters who, when our backs were turned, were quite as zealous in the promotion of laughter as literature—who sat wiggling in their chairs round the radiator, ornamented both it and the floor with tobacco juice, and in various ways tried to excite the anger or risibles of each other to the disgust of all sober-minded readers. In default of an officer always within reach we set our wits at work for a remedy, and hit on this: to secure by thin iron plates and screws the legs of our chairs and tables to the floor, the chairs in such wise that no two readers would face or be within reach of each other, and at the same time would enjoy all or more benefit from the light than before. It has worked like a charm, quiet instead of confusion has reigned along the lines ever since, and the place has become in fact as well as in name a *reading-room*. It may be, however, that I am carrying coals to Newcastle.

E. C. A.

TAUNTON, MASS.

THE FLETCHER FREE LIBRARY, BURLINGTON, VT.

Apr. 19. Our library was closed because it was all at once found that the city Council had cut down our appropriation so that the trustees had no further funds to keep it open.

Then followed the resignation of our capable librarian, Mr. Rogers, whose place cannot well be filled, for his quite singular faculty, as it has seemed to me, in library work.

Then followed the dreary controversy, the

vexatious pros and cons, the barren and ignorant gossip, with which, I guess, you are familiar through reports of such trouble elsewhere.

I am very sore about it all. We have begun again, and work with what heart we may in our enforced restrictions. We hope for better times and better men. But—!

May 8. Better counsels seem to begin to prevail. Let us hope that the more generous, which is the wiser, policy, will bring the library into more efficient working. L. G. WARE.

A "DUMMY" LIBRARY.

BOSTON, March, 1885.

ONE of our book-binders is busily engaged in binding a valuable library for one of our cultivated and intellectual citizens, who has a library, you know, and wants it "filled up." It consists of wooden blocks in the shape of books, handsomely bound in morocco, full gilt, etc., and bearing many suggestive titles, such as "The Adventures of a Finisher," "The Foreman's First Love," "The Mysteries of Claybank; or, the Paper Dealer's Last Resort," etc. One lot has already been returned to the customer, and another lot of sixty volumes is now binding.

G. W. H.

Library Economy and History.

CRANE, W. J. E. Bookbinding for amateurs: being descriptions of the various tools and appliances required and minute instructions for their effective use. Illustrated with 156 engravings. London, L. U. Gill, 1885. 184 p. 8". 2½ s.

DIAZ Y PEREZ. Las Bibliotecas en España. (In *Revista contemp.*, Jan. 1885.)

FERRERI, Prof. G. La Biblioteca Civica popolare circolante di Susa: monografia pres. all'Esposizione Ital. in Torino, 1884. Torino, tip. Tarizzo, 1885. 71 p. 8".

FRENSDORFF, F. Jacob Grimm in Göttingen. Abgedr. aus Nr. 1 des Jahrg. 1885 d. Nachr. v. d. K. Ges. d. Wis. Göt., 1885. 44 p. 8".

Gives details of the librarianship of the brothers Grimm at the University of Göttingen. "It is pleasant to see," says Dr. Hartwig, in the *Centralblatt*, "with what watchfulness and care the university authorities treated the library; they were ruled by the conviction that it was Göttingen's most important institution. The appropriations for the pay of the library corps were large. To say nothing of the pay of attendants, the salaries of the educated assistants amounted to 4300 Thaler (about \$3225), including the \$1500 which the brothers Grimm received." This in 1828-32 was considerable.

GIANANDREA, A. Biblioteca di un medico marchigiano del sec. 14. (In *Il Bibliofilo*, Jan. 1885.)

GREEN, S. S. Public libraries and schools, results of recent efforts to make the former useful to the latter; a paper prepared at the request of the Mass. Board of Educ. for its 49th report, 1884. Boston, 1885. 22 p. O.

LA SALLE de lecture de la Bibliothèque Nationale. (In *Le Gaulois*, 2 fév. 1885.)

LOZZI, C. Unico rimedio per antivenire i furti in pubblici archivii, biblioteche, e musei. (In *Il Bibliofilo*, Feb. 1885.)

MOZZANI, T. Nozione pratiche sull'ordinamento delle pubbliche biblioteche. Roma, tip. frat. Centenari, 1884. 71 p. 8°. 2.50 lire.

U. S. DEP'T OF THE INTERIOR. Report on the receipt and distribution of public documents. Wash., 1885. 12 p. O.

VALUABLE collection in the Reading-Room, British Museum. (Woodcut in *Punch*, Mar. 28, p. 155.)

The authors are reading their own works. The three electric lights are Panizzi, Bond, and Garnett.

Abstracts of and extracts from reports.

American Antiquarian Soc. Added, 1191 v., 5647 pm., 10 bd. and 115 unbd. v. of newspapers. The report of the librarian, Mr. E. M. Barton, details the work of introducing new steam-heating apparatus, gas, etc., at the library building. The work of examining and classifying the society's valuable collection of manuscripts has been begun, by aid of the bequest of the late Dr. Alden. The need of similar work in the portrait department is suggested, and contributions to it are solicited. The town maps and miscellaneous engravings, photographs, etc., in the library are also under arrangement. The work of exchanging material with individuals and other societies is alluded to, and its mutual benefits are described. A plan for transferring to properly arranged town libraries such duplicates of ancient newspapers, etc., as naturally belong in the towns has in some cases been carried out, to the benefit of the towns and the relief of the society's storage department.

Astor L. Added, 6209 v.; total, 214,638; delivered, 160,310; readers, 51,221, besides 7836 alcove readers.

Boston Med. Lib. Assoc. Triennial report. Added, 1559 v. a year; total, 14,799 v., 12,289 pm. "We are especially indebted to Dr. J. S. Billings, of the Surgeon-General's Library in Washington, for liberality in sending very many numbers of journals, all wanted in our files, upon exchange account, and to Dr. F. H. Shephard, librarian of the Medical Department of McGill University in Montreal, for a like liberality in giving us nearly a thousand numbers of journals without immediate return. This wise and generous spirit is in marked contrast

with the narrow policy of a few of the medical libraries who hoard their stores of duplicate periodicals on the mistaken idea that they have, or will come to have, a market value. My plan has been to practise the utmost liberality in the matter of exchanges, which has, I believe, inured to the ultimate benefit of our library."

Cambridge (Mass.) P. L. Added, 1046; total, 17,030; issued, 79,840. "The great need of a building for the library is still imperative, and when we see our sister cities and towns erecting fine substantial buildings for the accommodation of their libraries, it would seem as if the second city in wealth in the Commonwealth cannot much longer delay the erection of such a building; for not only are our shelves crowded with books, but we have no suitable place where a person can come in, and, undisturbed, consult the reference books, or spend a leisure hour in quiet study.

"The need of a complete catalogue is already imperative. A stranger wishing to ascertain if a certain history of England, for instance, is in the library, must look through nine different lists of books, and the number of lists will this coming year reach twelve, at least. Let him be ever so patient and intelligent, he is liable to become puzzled and confused, and forced at last to appeal to the librarian to know if such a work is here. Those who do not understand our poverty infer that we are indifferent to the needs of the public, or ignorant of the best methods of supplying them. Very many of our citizens—a majority of them—fail to realize how really valuable a collection of standard histories, biographies, and scientific works is at their service. Though a large proportion of books issued are of a lighter character, the real value of the library is in its standard works, and for these, by far the largest amount is spent each year.

"May not a public library, properly used, be considered as much a means of public education as our common schools? When these appeal to the city for additional funds, their requests become demands. They do not say 'we want,' but 'we must have,' and they are not refused.

"From the national government we have just received the offer of several volumes of historical value, which we may have to decline for want of means to bind the books, and room to store them when received. The history of the library for the past ten years shows a great increase in its value and size, from 7000 to 17,000 volumes. Yet the annual appropriation and the room for its accommodation remain much the same.

"Most libraries of the size of this have buildings of their own, or funds for the purchase of books or payment of salaries, while we must depend almost entirely upon the generosity of the city. Our only fund is a legacy of \$1000 left by Isaac Fay, of this city, which yields us \$60 a year."

Dundee Free L. (Report ending Sept., 1884.) Added, 2224; total, 42,778; issued, 268,777; in the lending dep't., Fiction, 49.5 per cent;

in the ref. dep't., Fiction O, Miscellaneous literature, 28.7, Science and Arts, 56.2. "Books became sooner soiled in Dundee than in most other free libraries, owing to the oily nature of the material used in the staple trade." The want of ventilation having been much complained of, a ventilating shaft has been built and a supply of fresh air contrived with entire success. The increase in the number of readers is attributed to the dull times.

Friends Free L., Germantown. Added, 659 v.; total, 12,031; issued, 14,292. "One who is much interested in a public library in a neighboring State recently wrote:

"I have frequently heard of your library at Germantown, and admired the courage which enabled its founders to resist the demand of the readers of the present day for fiction and the wisdom to insist upon that feature in the organization of the library. We have not' (he continues) 'had that courage nor that wisdom. More than half the books taken from our library are novels. As Chairman of the Committee for purchasing books, I have striven to direct this taste for novel reading, but I fear I have not been successful.'

"Aware of the fact that the dissemination of pernicious reading-matter increases year by year, and that, too, at an accelerating ratio, there would appear to be a corresponding need for free public libraries of carefully selected books such as ours, conveniently placed throughout the city, as a means of measurably counteracting the baleful influences which are desolating the community in the direction noted.

"As indicating an avenue of possible service for some in connection with the use of libraries, our librarian mentions the fact that, some time back, he had observed a young woman of quiet demeanor interesting herself in aiding young girls in the selection of books suited to their tastes and apprehensions—that she did this on the afternoon of Seventh-days during a number of months—and that, when the service ceased, he ascertained she was a factory-girl, who, at the time when business was slack, had sought to be of a little assistance to those younger than herself in the manner stated."

Glasgow. Mitchell L. Added, 3973; total, 55,496; issued, 435,142; number of periodicals read, about the same. Want of room both for books and readers is complained of. One result is a decreased attendance of ladies. The tables of circulation "show that a very large amount of the reading is really undertaken less for the sake of merely passing the time than for the acquisition of useful information."

Harvard University L. Added, 12,360; total, 290,710 v. and 241,250 pm. The College Library added 9879; contains 220,341 v. and 215,097 pm.; and issued 57,702. "The use of 'Admission Cards,' by which students have access for investigation to special classes of the books at the shelves, is steadily gaining in favor, judging from the increased frequency of

such use. The use of the library by the members of the so-called 'Annex' is also increasing. A pass-book containing titles of books wished for is sent by a messenger to Gore Hall twice a day. Many of the titles thus presented have all the defects of inexactness and ambiguity which comes from inexperience in using titles, and as it devolves upon the library attendants to attach shelf-numbers to assist in finding the books, there is a considerable expenditure of time on the library's part in aid of that institution. The over-night use by the 'Annex' of books which have been reserved for the special use of our own students is confined to such titles as at the day's close have not been required to supply the latter. That this discrimination is necessary appears from the fact that five eighths of all books drawn by the 'Annex' are from the 'reserved' shelves, — 518 of the \$60 total issues to them being of this class, while of the 342 other issues a large part have apparently no relation to their special studies, but belong to the class of general reading.

"Nine years ago 57 per cent of the students, five years ago 77 per cent, and during the past year 84 per cent used the library.

"Mr. Lane's opinion is strengthening, as the work goes on, that the cards of books concerning authors should be put in the authors' catalogue in connection with the cards representing their works, as is done in the classes of Latin and Greek authors, and that these last, now in the subject catalogue, should be transferred to their proper alphabetical place in the authors' catalogue.

"When it is considered that every regular order [for the purchase of books] passes through twenty-two stages, devised as a protection against error, and when one of these stages involves an examination of from ten to seventeen alphabetical records, it can be judged how intricate and devious the work, necessary in a large library dealing with titles of all kinds in all languages, has become to insure the avoidance of errors. If there were no tricks or devices of authors and publishers to confound titles, no possible variations in names and catalogues entries, and no lack of bibliographical knowledge in the slips submitted to the department, and if there was also unfailing ingenuity in our own officers to solve all questions — there could be great simplifying of processes, and but a few errors would occur; but with frailties of all sorts on all sides the best work which we can do is but approximately accurate, and is protective in the same degree."

The report concludes with remarks on the late great English book auctions, and the rise in the price of books.

Library Co. of Phila. Added, 3661; issued, 51,104. There is a marked increase in the attendance at the Locust Street branch and a decided falling off at the Ridgway branch. On Sunday the character of the visitors at the latter library is so unsatisfactory that the directors think of closing it on that day.

Maimonides L., N. Y. Added, 3464 v. and pm.; total, 24,071; issued, 45,892 (fiction 73 per cent). "The unusually large number of additions is due to the purchase at favorable prices of two libraries, the one composed of English, the other mainly of German works. About thirty per cent. of the acquisitions is standard literature, as distinguished from works of fiction. The very nature of the institution as specifically organized for Intellectual Advancement render necessary a still greater proportion of the best works in the various departments of literature. . . . Furthermore, whereas formerly the library was almost solely made use of by the elderly members of the Order, now it is more industriously utilized by their sons and daughters, and the younger members of the Order. The seeds of culture which were sown in the minds of these latter at the public schools, and the College of the City of New York and the Normal College, should be given scope for broader and fuller growth in this library. . . .

"We have now a total of 4433 members; 4962 persons are entitled to use the Mercantile Library, with its 200,000 volumes, while our institution has only 24,000 volumes. This will indicate how capacious are our needs, and will explain to many of our readers why popular works are now and then so difficult to obtain.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF VOLUMES CIRCULATED OF GERMAN FICTION, OF AUTHORS WHOSE WORKS HAVE BEEN GIVEN OUT FIFTY OR MORE TIMES DURING 1884.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|---------------------------|----|
| Ewald A. König. | 361 | Wichert. | 94 |
| Wachenhusen. | 354 | Kohn. | 91 |
| Galen. | 214 | Detlef. | 91 |
| Mühlbach. | 200 | Gerstacker. | 87 |
| Spielhagen. | 200 | Carlen. | 85 |
| Golo Raimund. | 192 | Franz Hoffmann. | 79 |
| Samarow. | 178 | Fanny Lewald. | 77 |
| Marlitt. | 172 | Gustav Freytag. | 75 |
| Dumas. | 162 | Brachvogel. | 74 |
| Max Ring. | 190 | Godin. | 74 |
| Hillern. | 159 | Gartenlaube. | 74 |
| Schucking. | 151 | Vely. | 70 |
| Egon Fels. | 141 | Eugene Sue. | 68 |
| Hacklander. | 140 | Jensen. | 65 |
| Werner. | 140 | Jokai. | 65 |
| Julius Grosse. | 135 | Streckfuss. | 65 |
| Paul Heyse. | 132 | Friedrich. | 63 |
| Kompert. | 117 | Eckstein. | 59 |
| Gustav von See. | 117 | Winterfeld. | 56 |
| Auerbach. | 115 | Herman Schmid. | 53 |
| M. Sophie Schwartz. | 113 | Bulwer. | 52 |
| George Ebers. | 105 | Robert Byr. | 51 |
| August Becker. | 105 | Gutzkow. | 51 |
| Alfred Meisner. | 99 | Otto Muller. | 51 |
| Hiltl. | 98 | Max von Schlägel. | 51 |

"The character of fiction-reading is manifestly improving. Important as it is to secure a wider circulation for works of a standard character, it is equally important, if not more so, as a means to that end, that those who are addicted solely to the reading of fiction shall read the best fiction; at all events, that they shall not

devote themselves entirely to the worst. To this object I have directed much of attention, and with something of self-complacency I can point to the results achieved. The proud supremacy which was held in last year's report by Southworth, Fleming, Holmes (Mary J.) and Clay is at an end. Their places at the head of the list of novelists most read during the year have been assumed by Bulwer, Black, Mulock, Aguilar, Marlitt, Dickens, George Eliot, Von Hillern, and Sir Walter Scott. While Southworth's works have been given out 327 times, the greatest number of persons who have taken out any one work is only 15, while Bulwer's 'Night and Morning' has been given out 102 times; Marlitt's 'Bailiff's Maid' 101; Aguilar's 'Vale of Cedars' 89; 'The Breadwinners' 87; Black's 'Yolande' 85; and so further to considerable extent. Thence appears that there are only few who have confined themselves to reading of trashy fiction, but that those few are addicted to only such reading.

"In previous years the library was closed during the summer, sometimes four weeks, at others six or eight weeks. It was this year determined, for the accommodation of readers, to continue in operation throughout the year, without any vacation. During July 3432 volumes were circulated and 2748 during August."

Malden (Mass.) P. L. Added, 1160; total, 9834 v. and 1579 pm.; issued, 43,785. The increased circulation is attributed to the distribution of bulletins. The usual complaint of want of room is made, an evil which is to be remedied by the new library building erected by the Hon. E. S. Converse in memory of his son. An endowment is called for; the library, it is said, "would gain both dignity and stability; and dignity and stability are synonyms of strength and duration, which are better than a maintenance, however ample, from year to year. Once fairly endowed, it would attract gifts and increased endowments to itself."

The completion of the file of town reports and of the collection of Malden newspapers is desired, and "a more liberal provision of magazines and reviews" for the larger reading room in the Converse memorial hall.

"The single volume reported missing in 1881 represents the total loss of the library in a circulation of 248,748 volumes."

One case of vandalism occurred in the reading-room during the year, when the leaves of an illustrated magazine were cut into and a portion of an engraving taken away. The method and evident reason of the theft pointed closely to the offenders, who will be watched in the future. A repetition of the offence by any will be dangerous. The penalty, on conviction, is a *heavy fine or imprisonment*, and the board will enforce the law. A similar act under like circumstances had previously occurred. These, with two others of less moment, reported in 1880, are the only cases of serious wilful defacement which have been observed. . . .

"For the purposes of a circulating library and as a tolerably ready guide, our finding-lists and

bulletins are not without merit; and they possess the important advantage of being readily and cheaply prepared. But for the purposes of the student, and for use as an infallible directory to all which the library may contain, or for general library use, nothing which has yet been devised presents so many advantages as the card catalogue. Its use presupposes some little knowledge of books and how to use them; but in that it becomes an educator, and there are few who cannot readily master its simple mysteries. While the finding lists and bulletins may still properly hold their ground, the card catalogue will become more necessary as the library grows."

Mercantile L. Assoc. of St. Louis. Added, 2504; total, 62,264; issued, 168,774. "We have insufficient case room for the books; the reading-room is dark and badly ventilated; the building, not being fire-proof, with its valuable contents, is in constant danger of destruction by fire, and the revenue it yields is entirely inadequate to the valuable ground it occupies."

The Association is trying to raise \$250,000 for a new fire-proof building by the issue of permanent, negotiable certificates of membership, price \$100 each; in other words, the Association is to become a stock company, a plan which has been tried successfully in at least one other case. \$250,000 are wanted, and two \$10,000 and several \$5000 subscriptions are already secured.

Merc. Lib. Assoc., San Francisco. Added, 1278 v. (of which 722 cost \$1279.27); total, 53,858.

Nova Scotia Legislature and Historical Society. Added, 227; total, 10,401 v. and 8352 pm. The pamphlets have a subject-index and a nearly completed author-index. During the absence of the librarian the messenger sold for wrapping paper some unbound newspapers and uncataloged pamphlets. He is spoken of in the report as the late messenger.

Middlesex Mechanics Assoc., Lowell, Mass. Added, 866; total, 16,838; issued, 18,068. "In the early part of the year the by-laws of the association were changed so as to admit women to the reading-room, but very few women have availed themselves of this privilege. . . . A number of members who seldom or almost never use the library are constant patrons of the reading-room. The estimated current expense of the reading-room, after deducting the cost of the periodicals which would be subscribed for by the library, even if there were no reading-room, is a little over \$100. When one looks into the room on Sundays and sees the large number of attentive readers, he cannot help thinking that the money is well spent.

"Early in the year, at the suggestion of the librarian, a number of ladies associated themselves together for the purpose of purchasing books on art for the library. The Belvidere Foreign Periodical Club has again contributed its annual quota of books to another special department, that of periodicals.

"For a long time we have cherished the idea of grouping together persons for the purpose of

studying subjects in which they might be interested. The committee on science and education have again come to our aid in this project, and seconded by a gentleman and lady of prominence, have succeeded in forming a history club of 126 members, which has elevated the character of our patronage, besides adding some members and subscribers. We believe that a natural history society could be formed with equal success. . . .

"The great amount of time and labor spent by the librarian in furnishing information on various subjects to students cannot be represented either in figures or words. . . .

"A certain lady once told me that she was reading fifteen continued stories. Such voracious appetites can only be supplied by circulating libraries. The enormous patronage of novels to a great extent grows out of the fact that the art of fiction deals with the whole of humanity, and therefore touches every point of human experience; it at the same time furnishes the sugar-coating through which even the dry facts of science and history may be conveyed. How many, for instance, would know anything about the plastic operation in surgery who had not read About's 'Nose of a Notary'? or how many would care for Erasmus or his times outside of the pages of Charles Reade's 'The Cloister and the Hearth'? It is well to remind the members of the association that works of fiction as a permanent pecuniary investment are almost worthless. Most of our stock of novels would sell only for waste paper, while many other kinds of books have increased in value since their introduction, some of them more than fourfold."

So. Australian Institute. (9 months ended June 30, 1884.) Number of vols., 26, 184; issued, 67,031. The So. Australian Institute in 1856 took the place of the moribund South Australian Library and Mechanics' Institute; July 1, 1884, it gave way to the Public Library Museum and Art Gallery, to which 12,391 vols. were transferred, leaving 13,793 for the Adelaide Circulating Library. This latter is apparently to continue the circulation of books among the country institutes, of which in 1883 there were 113 affiliated to the So. Australian Institute, with 5158 members. In 1883-84 three new institutes having joined, 157 boxes, containing about 4825 vols. were circulated among 116 institutes. Of the 157 boxes 134 are English, 23 German.

Watertown (Mass.) P. L. Added, 500 v.; total, 15,055 v., 11,591 pm.; issued, 27,469. "Every argument in favor of education as a guarantee of liberty and good government is an argument for the liberal support of this institution."

Notes.

Boston. "Women are beginning to frequent the Public Library, to some extent, for the purpose of studying political history and the questions that are uppermost in the serious movements of the day. Some are young, just out of school; others are older, and take up these investigations because they feel that women should understand what is of importance in public af-

fares. It appears that in some quarters these women are gathered in clubs, where the inquiries are made, and those who can are asked to answer them. The number of the women thus awakened to these studies is daily increasing, and the interest is of a wholesome sort, entirely disconnected with female suffrage or any political demands on the part of the sex. The matter has excited much surprise and given great satisfaction at the Public Library, where the solitary female who now and then attempts the rôle of Harriet Martineau has appeared too seldom to be subjected to any comment. The assistants at the library have done all in their power to encourage these political studies by causing lists of suitable books to be prepared, and there is at present a greater call for works of this class than at any previous date since it was opened. It is understood that the interest in these studies has so far widened that one of the best qualified men among the clergymen of this city is soon to be asked to give them outline lectures upon these subjects, and that the investigations include not only politics, but the larger questions of government, political economy, tariff and socialism, which are fundamental to modern society. This interest could hardly be dignified by the name of a movement, but it has begun spontaneously, and, if intelligently fostered, is sure to develop into something influential in the community at large. It is certainly a movement in the right direction."

Cambridge (Mass.). The "Superintendent of schools, aided by teachers and by others who seek to guide young people in the choice of good reading," has prepared a list of books in three divisions for older, intermediate, and younger pupils, and affixed the shelf marks of the Cambridge P. L. when the works are there. It fills the last 9 pp. of an "Outline of U. S. history and books for general reading," Jan. 1884. [Camb., 1884.] 16 p. O.

Chicago, Ill. The Book Borrowers' Delivery Co. has been incorporated by George C. Lenke, F. J. Leutsche, William H. McMillen. The object of the company is the delivery and return of books from the Chicago Public Library. A similar enterprise was started in Boston five or six years ago, but failed for want of custom.

Dresden. Feb. 7 the library and reading-room of the Gehe-Stiftung were opened. The director, Baron von Stockhausen, in his address, set forth the purpose of the founder, which was to make a sociological library in the broadest sense of the word. So far 5000 marks have been used in the purchase of about 6000 volumes of political science, political economy, and social science.

England. "At Leeds Mr. Yates is prospering, but he complains that his new premises are more handsome than convenient. At Liverpool the electric light is to be introduced in the library and the reading-rooms, as the gas is found destructive of bindings. At Salford the librarian has been plagued with dry rot, in the literal, not the figurative sense."—*Athenaeum*.

Gateshead. A free library, the cost of which, including the erection and land, is upward of £8000, has just been opened at Gateshead.—*Athenaeum*.

Hingham, Mass. The trustees of the Hingham Public Library now allow teachers in the public schools to take out ten books at a time.

Rio Janeiro. The Centralblatt extracts from C. von Koseritz's *Bilder aus Brasilien* (Lpz., 1885) an account of the libraries at Rio Janeiro. The Germania Society has the largest collection of German books. The University Library has about 25,000 v., the National Library about 150,000. This latter lacks room both for books and for readers. It has a very valuable collection of Dürer wood-cuts, drawings of the best Italian masters, and the like, which came to it in a singular way. When in 1806 King Joseph was driven from Lisbon by Napoleon he took with him the greatest treasures of the archives and libraries. He returned to Europe leaving the boxes unpacked, with no indication of their contents. When they were finally opened no one recognized the value of the drawings, and they were left for fifty years in a lumber-room, exposed to dust and damp. It was only a few years ago that the late librarian, Dr. Romiz Galvao, discovered them and restored them to a place of honor.

San Francisco. W. F. S. writes to the *American architect* in regard to the Suto Library that "a librarian is now cataloguing about 70,000 rare volumes. . . . Mr. Suto's plan is to collect at least 300,000 volumes of purely technical works, so that students on this coast shall have advantages equalled by none in the United States and even in Europe."

Tübingen. A vacancy in the university chief librarianship has been filled by promoting the second and third librarians and replacing the third librarian by the university librarian of Basle.

Vatican. A volume which contains letters written by Pope Innocent III. in 1207-09 was taken from the papal palace at Avignon by Benedict XIII. and left in Spain at the castle of Penisola. The Cardinal de Foix brought it to Toulouse about 1429. A century and a half later it wandered to Dijon, where several collectors successively owned it. Under Louis XIV. it came into the possession of the Bishop of Montpellier. About 1750 it crossed the channel to England, and at last in 1848 the Earl of Ashburnham bought it of a Bristol bookseller for £31 10s. When the Earl was trying to sell his mss. to the British Museum in 1883, Cardinal Pitra heard of this, and tried to purchase it for the Vatican; but when the sale to the Museum fell through the Earl presented this register to the Pope.

Continuations.

The *Neuer Anzeiger* gives in the March-April number a five and a half page list of continuations for the benefit of librarians who are taking works in numbers, so that they may know whether they have received the latest part out.

Bibliography.

ASCHERSOHN, F. Musikalische Bibliographie (In *Vierteljahresschr. f. Musikwiss.*, 1. Jahrg. 1. Viertel.)

BALDAMUS, E. Die Erscheinungen der deutschen Literatur auf dem Gebiete der Kriegswissenschaft und Pferdekunde, 1880-84. Lpz., 1885. 8°. 2 m.

BENGESCO, G. Voltaire; bibliographie de ses œuvres. Tom. 2. Paris, Didier, 1885. 8°. 15 fr.

BIRKMEYER. Zusammenstellung der gesamten bis jetzt zur Reichs-Civilprocessordnung erschienenen Literatur, geordnet nach der Reihenfolge der Gesetzes-Paragrafen. (In *Beitr. z. Erläut. d. deutsch. Rechts*, 1884. p. 179-241.)

BISCIA, C. R. Ricordi bibliografici. Vol. 1. (Abati-Guicicelli.) Livorno, coi tipi di Fr. Vigo, 1885. 8+356 p. 8°.

"These bibliographical records contain notes of value on books in Signor Biscia's own library, and extend to nearly 1000 numbers. This brings the notes to G only. One may not altogether agree with Mira that 'there is certainly no science that embraces and requires so much knowledge as the science of bibliography,' and yet be grateful for the enlightened enthusiasm which puts forth such a book as this."—*Critic*, Apr. 25.

BOMBAY. OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF NATIVE PUBLICATIONS. Catalogue of books printed in the Bombay Presidency during the quarter ending 30 June, 1884. Bombay, 1884. 65 p. F°. 271 books and 96 periodicals.

CHERRIER, H. Bibliographie de Mathurin Régnier. Paris, P. Rouquette, 1884. 4+56 p. (200 copies.)

CUMONT, G. Bibliog. gén. et raisonnée de la numismatique belge. Brux., C. Muquardt, 1885. 12+474 p. 8°. 15 fr.

DIE DEUTSCHE PRESSE, Verzeichniss, u. s. w. I. Bd.: Politische Zeitungen, Amts-, Local-, und Anzeigblätter. Forbach, Hupfer, 1885. 8+280 p. 8°. 1 m.

DEWALQUE, G. Catalogue des ouvrages de géologie, de minéralogie, et de paléontologie. Liège, Vaillant-Carmann, 1885. 8°. 10 fr.

Catalogue des dessins, aquarelles, et estampes de Gustave DORÉ exposés dans les salons du Cercle de la Librairie (mars 1885), avec une notice biog. p. G. Duplessis. Paris, Cercle de

la Librairie, 1885. 225 p. + portrait gravé p. Lalauze. 16°. 3-50 fr.

Pages 123-193 contain the list of all works illustrated by Doré.

DOVEN, F. D. Bibliographie namuroise indiquant les livres impr. à Namur, les ouvrages pub. en Belgique ou à l'étranger par des auteurs namurois ou conc. l'histoire du comté ou de la province actuelle de Namur, suivie d'une liste chronol. et anal. des placards et ordonnances rel. à l'ancien pays de Namur. 1. partie. Namur, 1884. 144 p. 8°.

ENESTRÖM, Gustaf. Bibliotheca mathematica. Stockh., 1884. 123 p. Q.

Published in quarterly numbers. An alphabetical list of new mathematical books and pamphlets, and articles in periodicals, and another list of reviews of mathematical books.

ENGEL, K. Zusammenstellung der Faust-Schriften vom 16. Jahrh. bis Mitte 1884. Der Bibliotheca Faustina 2. Aufl. Oldenburg, Schulze. (A. Schwartz). 1885. 8°. 15 m.

ERMANN, W. Ueber die von der Central-Commission für wiss. Landeskunde von Deutschland unternommenen bibliog. Arbeiten. (In *Verhandlungen d. Ges. für Erdkunde zu Berlin*, 1885, Nr. 2.)

At a meeting of the Gesellschaft für Erdkunde at Berlin Dr. W. Ermann, who has charge of the historical and geographical section of the Royal Library at Berlin, expressed a very unfavorable opinion of the bibliographical labors of the Central Commission für wissenschaftliche Landeskunde von Deutschland. The editor of the *Centralblatt f. Bib.* declares his accusation just: bibliography is evidently not the forte of the committee. As Dr. Ermann says, in such a matter "nothing can be done well without a great deal of technical knowledge and training on the part of the workers, a fixed plan on the part of the foreman, and the necessary means on the part of the employers."

HAUTHALER, Willibald P. Literatur-Verzeichniss: Literatur fremder Autoren, die den [Benedictiner- und Cistercienser-] Orden betrifft. (In *Studien aus d. Benedict.- u. dem Cist.-Orden*, Jahrg. 6, Heft 1, p. 205-211.)

HEIMBUCHER, Max. Die Bibliothek des Priesters; praktische Winke für deren Anlage und Erweiterung, mit besond. Berücksichtigung der neueren theol. Literatur. Regensburg, Manz, 1885. 8+140 p. 8°.

HESS, R. Lebensbilder hervorragender Forstmänner und um das Forstwesen verdienter Mathematiker, Naturforscher, und National-

- ökonomien. Berlin, P. Parey, 1885. 24+439 p. 8°. 10 m.
- 331 biog. articles, with lists of the subjects' writings.
- JOHNSON, C. P. Hints to collectors of original editions of works of W. M. Thackeray. London, 1885. 8°. 6 sh.
- MANNO, Antonio. Bibliografia Promisiana. Torino, tip. G. B. Paravia e C. di J. Vigliardi, 1884. 55 p. 16°.
- MONTAROLO, Battista. Bibliographie del Risorgimento italiano: Opere anonime e pseudonime: 1°, 2° centuria. Roma, tip. Centenari, 1885. 38 p. 8°.
- MOURIER, A., and DELTOUR, F. Catalogue et analyse des thèses françaises et latines admises par les facultés des lettres, avec index et table alph. des docteurs. Année scolaire 1883-'4. Paris, Delalain frères. 1884. 44 p. 8°. 2 fr.
- OPPEN, L. J. van. Nederlandsche Rechtsliteratuur, met medewerking van J. C. Sasse. 2. deel. 's Gravenhage, Gebr. Belinfante, 1884. 8+454 pp. 8°. 5.62 fl.
- PAULITSCHE, Philipp. Die Sudânländer nach dem gegenwärtigen Stande der Kenntniss. Freiburg i. Br., Herder, 1885. 12+311 p. 8°. Pages 280-311 contain a complete bibliography of the later Sudan literature.
- PETZOLDT, Julius. Uebersicht der neueren Litteratur über den deutsch-französischen Krieg 1870-'71. (In *N. Anzeiger*, Mar.-Apr., p. 82-111.) Continued from *N. Ans.*, 1880, p. 94. We welcome this long bibliography as a sign that the new management of the *Anzeiger* will abandon its practice of dealing out bibliographies in little, unsatisfactory, provoking fragments.
- RAMSAY, Alexander. The scientific roll — climate; a bibliography, guide, and index to climate. London, Swan, Sonnenschein & Co., 188 . Reviewed in *Saturday review*, Ap. 4, p. 452. The bibliography commences in 1682 and closes in 1883. "The indices are very complete, and refer to subjects both in the bibliographies and the notes, but not to the names of the writers."
- REICKE, Rud. Die Kant-Bibliographie des Jahres 1883 mit Nachträgen zu früheren Jahren. Königsberg, F. Beyer, 1885. 7 p. 8°. 0.50 m.
- SAGGIO di una bibliografia di Francesco Soave. (In *Bollettino stor. della Svizzera ital.*, Dec. 1884.)
- SELL's dictionary of the world's press, 1885. London, Sell, 1885. 8°. 1 s., with maps, 2 s.
- THEUX DE MONTJARDIN, X. de. Bibliographie liégeoise cont.: 1° les livres imprimés à Liège depuis le 16^e siècle jusqu'à nos jours; 2° les ouvrages pub. en Belgique et à l'étranger, conc. l'histoire de l'ancienne principauté de Liège et de la province actuelle du même nom. 2^e éd. aug. Brux., 1885. 571 p. 8°. 50 fr.
- The "English catalogue of books for 1884" and the "London catalogue of periodicals, newspapers, and transactions for 1885" have appeared.

Catalogs and Classification.

DEWEY, Melvil. Library abbreviations. Boston, Library Bureau, [1885]. 8 p. T.

Contains abbreviations; "100 forenames. For headings; For imprints and notes; For book titles; For places of publications; Titles, states, etc.; Size notation; Months; Days."

FORCELLA, Vincenzo. Catalogo dei manoscritti rel. alla storia di Roma che si conservano nella biblioteca Vaticana. Vol. 4. Torino, Roma, Firenze, frat. Bocca, 1885. 296 p. 8°.

GROTON (*Mass.*) P. L. Catalogue. Groton, 1885. 192 p. O.

Author and title catalogue. The library was founded in 1854 by a gift of \$500 from the Hon. Abbott Lawrence; the town appropriated the same amount. In 1884 Willard Dalrymple bequeathed \$2000. The library now contains about 4000 v. and circulates about 10,000 v. a year.

NOLAN, Joseph Allan. The library of G: Gordon King. Newport, R. I., 1885. 2 v. [7] + 432; 8 + [1] + 327 p. Q. (200 copies.)

Part 1, books; 2, prints. Part 1 is a dictionary catalogue; part 2 is arranged by schools of engravers and sub-arranged by centuries. There is an index of engravers and another of painters and designers. The printing is luxurious, and the cataloging very carefully done. The entries under subjects, however, might easily have been made clearer by indentation or by the use of small caps. for the authors' names. Of the prints there are 5538 numbers; the number of the books is not stated. The work is dedicated "to the memory of G: Gordon King by his nephew and namesake," and Thacher Thayer declares, in a prefatory note, that "the books here catalogued will remind those who knew Mr. G: King of his scholarly tastes, his wide intelligence, and his high moral aims. . . . Surely it would have rejoiced him to know that his library would not be scattered, but preserved and increased."

PICOT, E. Catalogue des livres composant la bibliothèque de feu le baron James de Rothschild. Tome 1. Paris, 1884. 19+671+[1] p. O. With portrait, 3 fac-similes of binding, and 3 of printing, and many woodcuts in the text. 30 fr.

The bibliographical work is thorough in the highest degree; the fac-similes of binding are beautifully done. The 19 preliminary pages contain a biographical notice.

ROBERT, Ulysse. État des catalogues des bibliothèques publiques de France. Lille, imp. Danel, 1885. 27 p. 8°.

ROEDIGER, Franz. Catalogue des livres ms. et imprimés comp. la bibliothèque de M. Horace de Landau. Florence, 1885. 590 p. 8° (100 copies.)

The banker, M. Landau, has got together in Italy a remarkable collection of books, and printed a most luxurious catalogue of them of which we find an account in the *Centralblatt*. The titles are given in full, line by line, so that some occupy a whole page of the catalogue. Only in the case of a few modern books does the compiler condescend to use the ordinary method of marking the end of the line by a dash. The number of pages, signatures, etc., and necessary literary notes are given at the end of the title.

The A. L. A. abbreviations for book sizes, months, and male proper names have been printed by the *Publishers' weekly* on a standard catalog card (12½ x 5 cm.), which has on the other side an advertisement of the "American catalogue" and along the edge a centimetre and an inch rule. For the convenience of catalogers, the slip should have had the colon abbreviations for women's names.

DR. RICHTER has again published his annual list of the books received at the Dresden Public Library.

THE HARTFORD L. Assoc.'s Bulletin for April has a two-page note on Mythology and folklore.

Indexes.

GRISWOLD, W. M. The Q. P. index annual for 1884, 4th an. issue. Bangor, 1885. 57 p. O. (Q. P. indexes, 17.)

Bound with this are specimen pages of "Q. P. index, 16, an index to the leading British reviews and magazines for 1882-84. Bangor, Me., 1884, O." and a reprint of the key to the "Index to articles relating to history, biography, literature, society, and travel contained in collections of essays." The "annual" indexes 32 American, 6 English, 1 French, and 13 German periodicals.

REVUE critique de législation et de jurisprudence; tables décennales, 1860-70. par M. E. Dramard. Paris, 1885. 8°. 4 fr.

SABBADINI, Remigio. Guarino Veronese e il suo epistolario edito e inedito. Indice alfabetico delle lettere e biografia tratta da essa. Salerno, 1885. 82 p. 8°. 2 m.

WEGNER, Geo. Generalregister zu den Schriften der K. Böhm. Ges. d. Wissenschaften, 1784-1884. Prag, Calve, 1884. 16+159 p. 8°. 3 m.

Anonymous, Pseudonyms, etc.

Epitaphs from the old burying ground in Dorchester, Mass., Boston Highlands, 1869, 21 p., O, is by Harlow Elliot Woodward.

A Haole (i. e., a foreigner), ps. of G. W. Bates in *Island notes*, N. Y., 1854.—*Amer. cyclopaedia*, 8:529.

A. R. C. Wallis, ps. of a daughter of Prof. Opzoomer of Utrecht, in "Vorstengunst," lately translated into German and into English.—*Felix Dahn* quoted in *Nieuwsbl. v. d. boekhandel*, 14 Apr.

Colley Cibber.—James Rees, the dramatic author and critic, who was better known under his pseudonym of "Colley Cibber," died in Philadelphia lately, in the 83d year of his age.

Barbara Elton, author of "Bethesda," is Miss Leonora B. Halsted of St. Louis.—*F. M. Crunden*.

Jean Barbauf.—Les œuvres de J. Barbauf qui fut maire d'Abbeville en l'an 1524, pub. pour la première fois par E. Prarond, son successeur en l'échevinage en l'an 1884. Ambiani, typis Delattre Lenoel. 4+28 p., 4° (100 copies.) "Barbauf n'est autre que M. E. Prarond. Rarement pastiche fut plus ingénieux. Jen'hésite pas à mettre le tour de force de M. Prarond bien au dessus de celui de la trop fameuse Clotilde de Surville."—*Tamizey de Larroque*.

Max O'Rell, it is now an open secret, is not Mac Sorrel, as the preternaturally wise have surmised; he is M. Paul Blouët, French master at Westminster School, and editor of the Clarendon Press volumes on French oratory.—*Nation*.

Pen Oliver.—*The Lancet* confirms the rumor that Pen Oliver, F. R. C. S., the author of "Charley Kingston's Aunt," is the well-known surgeon, Sir H. Thompson.

VARYING TITLES: E. BÜRSTENBINDER. BY DAVID HUTCHESON.

A LIST of the works of E. Werner, pseud. for E. Bürstenbinder, translated into English, with the titles given to the various translations.

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Am Altar.</i> | Phila., 1872. |
| At the Altar. | Lond., 1878. |
| " | Phila., [1874]. |
| Bound by his Vows. | Lond., 1878. |
| Sacred Vows. | |
| <i>Der Egoist.</i> | Lond., 1882. |
| Partners. | N. Y., [1882]. |
| " | |
| <i>Frühlingsboten.</i> | |
| Fickle Fortune. | Lond., 1881. |
| What the Spring brought. | N. Y., [1881]. |

Gartenlaubenblüthen.

Consists of two stories:—

1. A Hero of the Pen. Bost., 1875.
 " " " " Lond., 1878.
 " " " " N. Y., 1879.
 " " " " N. Y., 1883.
2. Hermann. Lond., 1879.
 " " " " N. Y., 1883.

Gebannt und Erlöst.

- Banned and Blessed. Phila., 1884.
 Raymond's Atonement. Lond., 1884.
 " " " " N. Y., [1884].

Gesprenzte Fesseln.

- Broken Chains. Bost., 1875.
 Riven Bonds. Lond., 1877.

Glück Auf!

- Good Luck! Bost., 1874.
 " " " " N. Y., [1882].
 " " " " Lond., 1876.

Success and how he won it.

Um Hohen Preis.

- At a High Price. Bost., 1879.
 No Surrender. Lond., 1879.
 " " " " N. Y., [1883].

Vineta.

- Vineta. Bost., 1877.
 Under a charm. Lond., 1877.
 " " " " N. Y., [1882].

Gifts and Bequests.

ATHENS. A wealthy Greek gentleman in England, M. P. Vallianos, has offered 40,000*l.* for the erection of a separate building for the National Library at Athens, at present housed under the same roof as the University. The Viennese architect, M. Hansen, has prepared plans, and building will commence at once. — *Ath.*

BELGRADE. Mr. Gladstone has given the national library 363 volumes of historical and diplomatic works.

NOTTING HILL. The Free Public Library has received a handsome gift, the library of scientific books belonging to the recently dissolved West London Scientific Association.

LAROCHELLE. M. Adolphe Bouyer, "archéviste-palcographe" has bequeathed to the city library his books and his manuscripts, which relate almost exclusively to Aunis and Saintonge.

WATERTOWN, CONN. Dr. J. De Forest has bequeathed \$10,000 to the Library. Dr. J. De Forest, who died Mar. 11, aged 79, in Watertown, was held in high esteem by those who fully realized the sterling and reliable character of the man. Simple in his tastes, quiet and retiring in his habits, he lived his own life in accordance with them. Scrupulously exact, economical and honest, he knew what was his own and saved it, and he rendered to others by the same rule of carefulness and honor. What he gave was thoughtfully given and his heart went with it, but he most especially dreaded being made conspicuous for anything he might give. He wanted no reputation for generosity; he could have bought it with less than he gave in his own quiet way. Dr. De Forest graduated at Yale, class of 1826, and took his medical degree in 1829.

Librarians.

MÉRY bibliothécaire. (In *Le Figaro*, 24 Jan. 1885.)

Coxe. The Dean of Chichester has in press "Ten lives of good men." One is "the pious librarian (H. O. Coxe)." — *Ath.*

F. ROZANSKI, librarian of the Escorial, has been appointed Canon of Tarragona, in recognition of his services as librarian, which is much as if a good parish priest had been rewarded by being made librarian.

PIERRE GILLES, librarian of Francis I., is treated of in one of the chapters of L. Piessé and H. D. de Grammont's "Les illustres captifs, manuscrit du P. Dan analysé." Alger, Jourdan, 1884 or '5. 83 p. 8".

M. FRANÇOIS COPPÉE has resigned the post of librarian of the Théâtre Français. He had recently been elected a member of the Academy, and some of the members of the administrative committee did not like the plurality of honor.

PIERRE DE CARCAY. — Pierre de Carcay intermédiaire de Fermat, de Pascal, et de Huygens, bibliothécaire de Colbert et du roi, directeur de l'Acad. des Sciences; par Henry. (In *Bulletino di bibliog. delle sci. mat. e fisiche*, 17:5.)

M. BAUDRY is to be succeeded at the Mazarine as administrateur by M. Franklin, previously administrateur-adjoint. At the Sainte-Genève M. H. Lavoix becomes conservateur in place of M. Xavier Marmier, who has resigned. M. Lavoix comes from the Bibliothèque Nationale, and his place there is filled by his subordinate, M. Marchal. This is better than filling the vacancies with a number of lawyers without clients, doctors without patients, or unread authors.

THE old librarian was a peculiar character, as these officials are apt to be. They have a curious kind of knowledge, sometimes immense in its way. They know the backs of books, their title-pages, their popularity or want of it, the class of readers who call for particular works, the value of different editions, and a good deal besides. Their minds catch up hints from all manner of works on all kinds of subjects. They will give a visitor a fact and a reference which they are surprised to find they remember and which the visitor might have hunted for a year. Every good librarian, every private book owner, who has grown into his library, finds he has a bunch of nerves going to every bookcase, a branch to every shelf, and a twig to every book. These nerves get very sensitive in old librarians, sometimes, and they do not like to have a volume meddled with any more than they would to have their naked eyes handled. They come to feel at last that the books of a great collection are a part, not merely of their own property, though they are only the agents for their distribution, but that they are, as it were, outlying portions of their own organization. — *Dr. Holmes, in The Atlantic.*

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